

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A water-swellaible clay mineral laminated powder, in which a layer of ionic molecule having two or more ionic functional group is laminated on the surface of a base powder particle, a layer of water-swellaible clay mineral is laminated thereon, and the layers are sequentially laminated so that the surface charge or the ionic charge of each layer is alternately positive and negative.
2. (original) The water-swellaible clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1, wherein the ionic molecule is a polymer electrolyte.
3. (currently amended) The water-swellaible clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swellaible clay mineral is 0.5 μm or less.
4. (currently amended) The water-swellaible clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the average particle diameter of the base powder is 0.1 to 1000 μm .
5. (currently amended) The water-swellaible clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein a functional molecule, which having opposite charge to the surface charge of outermost water-swellaible clay mineral or the ionic charge of outermost ionic molecules, is adsorbed on the outermost surface of the laminated powder.

6. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 5, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is located on the outermost surface of the laminated powder, and a cationic functional molecule is adsorbed to the ion exchange group on the surface of the water-swellaable clay mineral on the outermost surface.

7. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 6, wherein the cationic functional molecule is an alkyl ammonium salt.

8. (currently amended) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the amount of the adsorbed cationic functional molecule in the laminated powder is 0.01 to 10 weight%.

9. (currently amended) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 4~~, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a water-swellaable clay mineral in which other molecules intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

10. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 9, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a water-swellaable clay mineral in which polyhydric alcohol intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

11. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 9, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a water-swellaable clay mineral in which water-soluble polymer intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

12. (currently amended) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 4~~, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex in which dye and water-swellaable clay mineral are complexed.

13. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 12, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which polybase and/or nonionic hydrophilic polymer and dye are complexed to water-swellaable clay mineral.

14. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 13, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which polybase and acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

15. (currently amended) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 14, wherein the polybase ~~polybase~~ is a polybase having quaternary ammonium group in the molecule.

16. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 13, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are complexed to water-swellaable clay mineral.

17. (original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 16, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

18. (currently amended) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~, wherein the water-soluble dye is an acid dye.

19. (currently amended) A ~~producing~~ method of producing a water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder comprising; an ionic molecule adsorption process for an ionic molecule is adsorbed on a base powder surface, wherein a base powder particle is dispersed in an aqueous solution of an ionic molecule having two or more ionic functional group with the opposite charge to the charge of the base powder; and a water-swellaable clay mineral adsorption process for a water-swellaable clay

mineral is adsorbed on the powder surface, wherein the powder particle after the adsorption of the ionic molecule is dispersed in an aqueous solution of the water-swelling clay mineral having opposite charge to the ionic charge of the ionic molecule of the powder particle surface.

20. (currently amended) A cosmetic comprising the water-swelling clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 18~~.

21. (original) A dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex, in which polybase and/or nonionic hydrophilic polymer and dye are complexed to water-swelling clay mineral.

22. (original) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 21, wherein polybase and acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swelling clay mineral.

23. (original) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 22, wherein the polybase is a polybase having quaternary ammonium group in the molecule.

24. (original) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 21, wherein nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are complexed to water-swelling clay mineral.

25. (original) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 24, wherein nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swelling clay mineral.

26. (currently amended) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 24 ~~or 25~~, wherein the water-soluble dye is an acid dye.

27. (currently amended) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of claim 21 to 26~~, wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swelling clay mineral is 1 μm or less.

28. (currently amended) A pigment composition comprising the dye/water-swella-
ble clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of claim 21 to 27.~~

29. (currently amended) A water-based coloring agent consisting of the dye/water-
swella-ble clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of claim 21 to 27.~~

30. (currently amended) A water-based composition comprising the dye/water-
swella-ble clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of claim 21 to 27.~~

31. (currently amended) A water-based cosmetic comprising the dye/water-swella-
ble clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of claim 21 to 27.~~

32. (original) An acid dye laminated pigment, in which a dye/water-swella-ble clay
mineral complex, which having opposite charge to the charge of a base powder, is
coated on the surface of the base powder, and a polybase and an acid dye are
intercalated in between the layers of the water-swella-ble clay mineral of the
dye/water-swella-ble clay mineral complex.

33. (original) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32, wherein one or
more layer of the acid dye /water-swella-ble clay mineral complex is further laminated
on the surface of the acid dye laminated pigment, and a layer of an ionic molecule,
which having opposite surface charge to the charge of the acid dye/ water-swella-
ble clay mineral complex, exists in between the each layers of the acid dye/ water-
swella-ble clay mineral complex.

34. (currently amended) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32 ~~or~~
~~33~~, wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swella-ble clay mineral is 1 μm
or less.

35. (currently amended) The acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of~~
claim 32 ~~to 34~~, wherein the average particle diameter of the base powder is 0.1 to
1000 μm .

36. (currently amended) The acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of claim 32 to 35~~, wherein the surface of the acid dye laminated pigment is further treated to be hydrophobic.

37. (original) A producing method of an acid dye laminated pigment comprising; an acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex producing process for an acid dye is intercalated in between the layers of the water-swelling clay mineral, wherein a polybase and an acid dye is contacted to a water-swelling clay mineral in aqueous phase; and laminating process for the acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex is electrostatically adsorbed on the surface of a base powder, wherein obtained acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex and a base powder, which having opposite charge to the charge of the complex, are mixed in aqueous phase.

38. (currently amended) A pigment composition comprising the acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of claim 32 to 36~~.

39. (currently amended) A cosmetic comprising the acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of claim 32 to 36~~.